

New claim 18 is dependent on claim 1, which is the independent claim within Group I as grouped by the Examiner. The new claims should be considered to be within Group I and examined in this application.

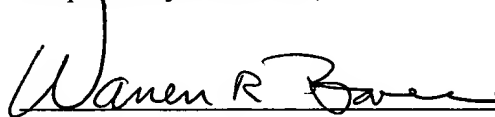
Claim 18 recites the feature that the gas flow substantially surrounds the water stream at some point downstream from the nozzle. This is supported in the specification at page 7, line 27 through page 8, line 3 and elsewhere in the specification and drawings.

TRAVERSAL OF THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicant disagrees with the Restriction Requirement as between the claims of Groups I, and II. The Examiner has held the method and apparatus to be materially different because the process can be practiced by an apparatus which does not require the ratio in the range of 1/50 to 1/600. However, the Examiner has offered no reason to believe that is the case. It is true that the method claim 1 does not recite the ratio specified in apparatus claim 13, but that is not believed to be determinative of the issue. MPEP 806.5(e) notes that the burden is on the Examiner to provide reasonable examples that recite material differences. The Examiner has offered no basis for concluding that the method *as claimed* could be practiced by a materially different apparatus. It is believed that even if the method could be practiced by an apparatus with a different ratio, that would not be a material difference that would require further search. It is believed claims 1-12 and 18 and claims 13-17 are based on a similar invention and could be searched and examined together without undue additional work on the part of the Office.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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